GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:26
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2004
CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL
Shandil Dr. (Col.) Dhani Ram

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the construction of tunnel at Rohtang pass in Himachal Pradesh alongwith estimated cost thereof and amount spent thereon so far;

(b) the amount proposed to be spent during the current financial year;

(c) the target date for completion of project;

(d) the benefits that will accrue with the construction of this tunnel; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of said tunnel?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 26 FOR 2.12.2004

It is proposed to construct a tunnel at Rohtang to provide an all weather road to Leh.

In May 2002 it was decided as a first step to construct approach roads to both the North and South portals of the proposed tunnel at Rohtang at a cost of Rs. 30 crore. Two approach roads were to be constructed of 2.7 kms (South portal) and the approach road to the North portal of 23.8 kms. The approach road to the South portal of the tunnel has been completed and 23.46 kms of the approach road to the North portal has been completed.

A sum of Rs. 30 crore has been utilised till March 2004. The amount spent during the current financial year is Rs. 14.82 crore in addition. Because of limited working season no further expenditure is anticipated in this financial year.

On the basis of Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) the estimated cost of Rohtang Tunnel and other related works is Rs. 1709.35 crore. The work relating to construction of approach roads and alternate route to Leh is already under progress by the Border Roads Organisation and construction of tunnel will be taken up through a contractor for which global tenders would be invited.

Construction of tunnel and other related works will provide strategic operational support to the Army and lead to economic development of the area. This will also reduce the distance between Manali and Leh by 40 km.

The work relating to construction of tunnel and other related works is proposed to be completed by 2011-2012.